

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a complete list of claims. The claims below replace all prior versions of the claims in the application. Please add claims 24 – 26.

- 1 1. (Original) A coupler for coupling sections of a paddle together and angularly positioning the sections relative to each other about a paddle axis, the coupler comprising:
 - 4 a first component mountable to a first section of the paddle and including a
 - 5 receptacle; and
 - 6 a second component mountable to a second section of the paddle and
 - 7 including a protrusion operable to extend into the receptacle of the first
 - 8 component to position the first component relative to the second
 - 9 component and to prevent the first component from turning relative to the
 - 10 second component, wherein the second component is movable relative to
 - 11 the first component along the paddle axis to turn and reposition the first
 - 12 component relative to the second component.
- 1 2. (Original) The coupler of claim 1 wherein the first component includes more than one receptacle each operable to receive the protrusion of the second component to position the first component in different angular positions relative to the second component.
- 1 3. (Original) The coupler of claim 1 wherein the second component includes more than one protrusion each operable to extend into the receptacle of the first component to position the first component in different angular positions relative to the second component.
- 1 4. (Original) The coupler of claim 1 wherein:
 - 2 the first component includes more than one receptacle, and

3 the second component includes more than one protrusion each operable to
4 extend into each receptacle to position the first component relative to the
5 second component in different angular positions.

1 5. (Original) The coupler of claim 1 wherein the second component is movable
2 relative to the first component along the paddle axis to withdraw the protrusion of
3 the second component from the receptacle of the first component.

1 6. (Original) The coupler of claim 1 wherein:

2 the protrusion includes a rectangular key, and

3 the receptacle includes a keyway sized to receive the key.

1 7. (Original) The coupler of claim 1 wherein:

2 the second component includes 24 protrusions, each including a rectangular
3 key, and

4 the first component includes 24 receptacles, each including a keyway sized to
5 receive each key.

1 8. (Original) The coupler of claim 7 wherein:

2 each protrusion is equally, angularly spaced around a perimeter of the second
3 component, and

4 each receptacle receives a protrusion when the first component is positioned
5 relative to the second component.

1 9. (Original) The coupler of claim 1 further comprising a retainer operable to
2 releasably lock the position of the first component relative to the second
3 component.

1 10. (Original) The coupler of claim 9 wherein:

2 the second component includes a lip, and

3 the retainer includes a hook operable to releasably lock the lip with the first
4 component.

1 11. (Original) The coupler of claim 10 wherein the retainer includes a spring to bias
2 the hook toward the lip when the protrusion of the second component extends
3 into the receptacle of the first component.

1 12. (Original) A paddle comprising:
2 a first section;
3 a second section angularly positionable relative to the first section about a
4 paddle axis; and
5 a coupler operable to couple the first section with the second section, wherein
6 the coupler comprises:
7 a first component included in the first section of the paddle and
8 including a receptacle, and
9 a second component included in the second section of the paddle and
10 including a protrusion operable to extend into the receptacle of the
11 first component to position the second section relative to the first
12 section and to prevent the second section from turning relative to
13 the first section, wherein the second component is movable relative
14 to the first component along the paddle axis to turn and reposition
15 the second section relative to the first section.

1 13. (Original) The paddle of claim 12 wherein the first component is mounted to the
2 first section, and the second component is mounted to the second section.

1 14. (Original) The paddle of claim 12 wherein the paddle is a double-bladed paddle
2 and the first section includes a first blade and the second section includes a
3 second blade.

1 15. (Original) The paddle of claim 12 wherein the first section includes a handle and
2 the second section includes a blade.

1 16. (Original) The paddle of claim 12 wherein:
2 the first section includes a body, and

the first component of the coupler is releasably mounted to the body.

1 17. (Original) The paddle of claim 16 wherein a pin releasably mounts the first
2 component to the body.

1 18. (Original) The paddle of claim 12 wherein:

the second component of the coupler includes 24 protrusions, each equally, angularly spaced around a perimeter and each including a rectangular key; and

the first component of the coupler includes 24 receptacles, each including a keyway sized to receive each key to position the second component relative to the first component in 24 different angular positions.

1 19. (Original) The paddle of claim 12 wherein the coupler includes a retainer
2 operable to releasably couple the first component with the second component to
3 lock the position of the first component relative to the second component.

1 20. (Original) A method for coupling sections of a paddle together and positioning the
2 sections relative to each other about a paddle axis, the method comprising:

inserting a protrusion of a second component of a coupler of a paddle into a receptacle of a first component of the coupler to position the first component relative to the second component and to prevent the first component from turning relative to the second component; and

locking the position of the first component relative to the second component with a retainer.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein inserting the protrusion into the
2 receptacle includes inserting a rectangular key of the second component into a
3 keyway of the first component. .

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein locking the position of the first
2 component relative to the second component includes retaining a lip of the
3 second component with a hook of the retainer.

1 23. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

2 moving the first component relative to the second component along the

3 paddle axis to withdraw the protrusion from the receptacle; and

4 turning the first component relative to the second component about the

5 paddle axis to reposition the first component relative to the second

6 component.

1 24. (New) A coupler for coupling sections of a paddle together and angularly

2 positioning the sections relative to each other about a paddle axis, the coupler

3 comprising:

4 a first component mountable to a first section of the paddle and including a

5 receptacle;

6 a second component mountable to a second section of the paddle and

7 including a protrusion operable to extend into the receptacle of the first

8 component to position the first component relative to the second

9 component and to prevent the first component from turning relative to the

10 second component, wherein the second component is movable relative to

11 the first component along the paddle axis to turn and reposition the first

12 component relative to the second component; and

13 a retainer having a hook operable to receive the second component to

14 releasably lock the position of the second component relative to the first

15 component.

1 25. (New) A paddle comprising:

2 a first section;

3 a second section angularly positionable relative to the first section about a

4 paddle axis; and

5 a coupler operable to couple the first section with the second section, wherein

6 the coupler comprises:

7 a first component included in the first section of the paddle and
8 including a receptacle,
9 a second component included in the second section of the paddle and
10 including a protrusion operable to extend into the receptacle of the
11 first component to position the second section relative to the first
12 section and to prevent the second section from turning relative to
13 the first section, wherein the second component is movable relative
14 to the first component along the paddle axis to turn and reposition
15 the second section relative to the first section,
16 a retainer having a hook operable to receive the second component to
17 releasably lock the position of the second component relative to the
18 first component.

1 26. (New) A method for coupling sections of a paddle together and positioning the
2 sections relative to each other about a paddle axis, the method comprising:

3 inserting a protrusion of a second component of a coupler of a paddle into a
4 receptacle of a first component of the coupler to position the first
5 component relative to the second component and to prevent the first
6 component from turning relative to the second component; and
7 locking the position of the second component relative to the first component
8 with a hook of the retainer.